

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 10918 191816 Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
----- 115605

O 191741 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9375

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 10918

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, LY, EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF LIBYAN MIRAGES TO EGYPT

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: PARIS 10430 ( NOTAL)

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN CALLED IN EMBOFF, APRIL 19, ON SUBJECT TRANSFER OF LIBYAN MIRAGES TO EGYPT. DE WARREN SAID THAT FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 13 MEETING WITH FONMIN JOBERT ( REFTEL ), TELEGRAM HAD BEEN SENT IMMEDIATE TO FRENCH EMBASSY TRIPOLI ASKING FOR CLARIFICATIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON APRIL 18 AMBASSADOR SCALI IN NEW YORK HAD RAISED ISSUE OF TRANSFER WITH FRENCH PERMREP DE GUIRINGAUD IN CONTEXT DE GUIRINGAUD'S SPEECH TO SC CITING FRENCH MILITARY EMBARGO POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. DE WARREN SAID THAT DE GUIRINGAUD HAD DENIED TRANSFER HAD TAKEN PLACE AND SUGGESTED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT BE HELD IN PARIS.

2. DE WARREN THEN WENT ON TO READ FROM TELEGRAM FROM FRENCH EMBASSY TRIPOLI WHICH BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO FRENCH MILITARY AND OTHER SERVICES IN LIBYA. DE WARREN SAID 72 MIRAGES HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO LIBYA TO DATE. ONE HAD BEEN DESTROYED; 51 REMAINED AT TRIPOLI WITH LIBYAN AND PAKISTANI PILOTS.

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REMAINING 20 HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO TOBRUK ON APRIL 10 AND 11. DE WARREN SAID THAT HE COULD GIVE ASSURANCES THAT ALL 71 MIRAGES CONTINUED TO BE STATIONED IN LIBYA.

3. DE WARREN COMMENTED THAT REPORTS OF AIRLIFT OF MIRAGES APPARENTLY BASED UPON MOVEMENT OF 20 MIRAGES TO TOBRUK. LIBYANS HAD MADE MOVE IN ORDER TO DISPERSE AIRCRAFT WHICH THEY FEARED WERE VULNERABLE TO POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK. DE WARREN NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO MOVEMENT OF MIRAGES, THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN CARGO FLIGHTS TO TOBRUK. IN CONCLUSION, DE WARREN STRESSED GOF FOLLOWING THIS QUESTION WITH UTMOST CARE AND WAS USING ALL RESOURCES AT ITS DISPOSAL TO KEEP TRACK OF MIRAGES DELIVERED TO LIBYA.

4. IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON, EMBOFF WAS GIVEN ESSENTIALLY SAME DENIAL IN MORE GENERAL TERMS. ROUILLON COMMENTED THAT GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT HE COULD IMAGINE NO REASON WHY LIBYA WOULD WANT TO TRANSFER THEIR MIRAGES TO EGYPTIAN CONTROL.  
IRWIN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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**Subject:** POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF LIBYAN MIRAGES TO EGYPT  
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